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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: James G. Wetmur et al.

Serial No. 09/898,750

Filed: July 3, 2001

Title: NUCLEIC ACID DISPLACER COMPOSITIONS

AND CELLS COMPRISING SAME

(As Previously Amended)

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Known

Examiner: Not Yet Known

Prev. Art Unit: 1656

Prev. Ex'r: Eggerton A. Campbell, Ph.D.

527 Madison Avenue, 9th Floor New York, New York 10022 December 23, 2002

FILED BY EXPRESS MAIL

Honorable Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

STATUS INQUIRY

Dear Sirs:

Through their undersigned attorney, Applicants respectfully request information on the status of their above-identified patent application. This application was filed as a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) on July 3, 2001. Since that time, a return postcard was received that indicated the serial number (09/898,750) and filing date (July 3, 2001) for this application.

According to the files of the Assignee, no filing receipt or other communication has yet been received in this application.

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EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"Express Mail" Label No. EV205342183US

Deposit Date

December 23, 2002

I hereby certify that this paper and the attachments herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington DC 20231.

Ronald C. Fedus Reg. No. 32,567 DEC 23 2002

Date

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A telephone call was placed during the week of December 16-20, 2002 to Group Art Unit 1600 (Tel. 703-308-0196) by the undersigned attorney who was informed that this application was still in Central Files and that no communications were issued since its filing on July 3, 2001.

It is respectfully requested that a filing receipt be issued as soon as possible and that the application be transferred to the assigned group so that examination can proceed promptly.

Favorable action on this inquiry is earnestly sought,

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald C. Fedus

Registration No. 32,567 Attorney for Applicants

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